

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1917.

ON THE DEFENSIVE.

Representative Lorrin Andrews, with all the ability of an experienced attorney, comes to the defense of the proposed city charter for which he is sponsor in the house of representatives. But his defense, in the light of the direct, vigorous criticism of this charter by the joint civic committee, does not hold water.

By no possible word-juggling can this charter proposal be masked as a "short-ballot," a "commission" or a "city manager" idea. The essence of short-ballot city government is that the policy-fixing officers may be elected, but that the administrative officers must gain and hold office solely on merit, not on political pull and maneuvering. They must be responsible to the policy-fixing board.

The charter convention's proposal is to elect not only six supervisors—the legislative or policy-fixing body—but seven other officials, executive heads, including the superintendent of city works.

Representative Andrews is approximately correct in saying that the charter he advocates would give to these executive officers "absolute power by each over their special department, unhampered and unrestrained by any other department." As a matter of fact, what this charter would allow would be for each department head to set himself up as independent of every other, and, being elected at large, mostly independent of the supervisors. The result would be city officials at loggerheads, each going his own way, regardless of a general policy for all. This is particularly so because the board of supervisors is still to have the control of appropriations, and thus can wield a paper club over departments at periodical times—just enough of a club to stir up animosity.

As a check on elected officials, the "recall" is proposed by the convention charter. But experience in American cities has demonstrated that the recall will not be used except when graft or incompetence amounts to a scandal. The recall is an emergency measure. It will not be invoked in cases of ordinary incompetence, or ordinary malfeasance in office. Furthermore, it is a weapon to be used with extreme caution. A recall election invariably stirs up the latent antagonisms and factional fights. It is like some horrible dose of medicine—unpleasant to the highest degree, but necessary as a purgative.

Under a charter as now proposed in the legislature, the recall would utterly fail to "discipline" elected officials unless they became so obnoxious as to be a public scandal. On the other hand, if they were employed by the supervisors, who in turn were responsible directly to the people, these employees would have to make good or the supervisors, beset by public importunity, would discharge them. It is entirely obvious that the recall would be slow to get into operation, would not be invoked at all if a man were half-way efficient and half-way sincere in his work.

The recall, however, is sometimes a wise precaution. Properly safeguarded, it may well be in Honolulu's new charter. But by far the quickest, the most direct, the most efficient way to handle the executive officers is not through the shadowy, troublesome "recall" method, but through their accountability as employees of an elected board.

Representative Andrews says of the proposal in the convention charter to elect a superintendent of public works:

"It tries the managerial form of government by electing a head of a department (public works), who will have full control of all construction work, with the power that a private corporation would give to such a superintendent or manager. If he is not satisfactory to the people who have elected him he can be recalled. He is directly responsible to the people and not to any group of men, so it will be his duty to please the entire public and not a group of men who could keep their favorites in office regardless of the feeling of the community."

The joint civic committee's report says of this:

"The convention charter creates and makes elective a superintendent of city works with extensive powers. This is the main and the worst new feature of that charter and obviously was its inspiration. It seems safe to say that if it were not for this feature, covered by four sections or one page near the end of the charter, that charter would not have been prepared or proposed."

Again turning to the experience of American cities, we find that they have learned that the city manager should be appointed, not elected. If elected, he has to go through a political campaign. He must make deals, promise patronage, tie his hands—nine times out of ten—before going into office. He must play politics to get there and play politics to stay there.

Now that is not good public business. Other cities have found it out. Honolulu will tread the road of bitter experience if the plan of an elected manager, already proved impracticable elsewhere, is put in operation here.

Representative Andrews' very able article this morning indicates that he is trying to convince the people that the convention charter is in harmony with commission, city-manager or short-ballot principles. But the leopard cannot change his spots, nor can this spotted convention charter mask itself as anything but what it is.

If the arguing in the world won't argue away the fact of thirteen officials to be elected; the fact that department heads are to be allowed to go off on a tangent with no eye to the general scheme of city welfare and municipal policy; the fact that just as many officials as today must play politics to get their jobs and hold them; the fact that the superintendent of city works is a job which will be the

happy hunting-ground for politics and politicians.

Nobody is abusing or wants to abuse Representative Andrews. This is not a personal matter and there is no occasion for him to make it so. It is a matter touching vitally Honolulu's future, and every man and organization with an opinion to express has the right to express it legitimately. Representatives of Honolulu's leading civic and commercial bodies condemn the convention charter and point out the atmosphere of machine politics that surrounds it. Definite reasons for the criticism are given, and definite suggestions for a modern charter on lines that experience has proved workable, economical, progressive.

MAKE THE ROAD PLAN COMPREHENSIVE.

Hawaii demands, needs, must have good roads, and already bills are appearing in the legislature calling for large territorial appropriations.

An instance is the \$400,000 appropriation asked by Representative Lyman of Hawaii for a highway from Hilo to the Volcano. This is but one of many similar bills which the legislature must consider.

The Star-Bulletin believes that public sentiment in the islands generally will uphold "state-aid" system for certain main roads which might be designated as "scenic highways." For Hawaii it must, of course, be the "territorial-aid" system, which means, in brief, that certain roads on the individual islands are to be paid for from the territorial funds.

It is recognized that highways such as that from Hilo to the Volcano, or from Kahului to Haleakala are not merely island assets but are territorial assets. Promotion work is binding the interests of the separate islands into one huge, common interest.

This principle was indorsed by the 1916 Civic Convention at Hilo, and the convention formally asked the governor and the superintendent of public works to draft out a system of territorial highways, the emphasis being placed on the need for better "tourist roads."

Now that requests for road appropriations are coming to both houses in disconnected form, it is timely to find out what has been done with the Civic Convention's request.

Has such a broad, comprehensive plan been worked out? What roads does it include? What will be the cost? How is the money to be raised? How spent?

All these questions need to be answered before either house passes on individual requests for appropriations which touch the "tourist road" idea.

The Civic Convention—many of whose members are now in the house and senate—recognized at Hilo last fall that the territory needs a sweeping, inclusive, carefully-worked out plan of territorial highways—not merely the paper theory, but the engineering information—the location, character and cost of the proposed roads. The territorial government was asked to furnish the information so it could be available for this legislature.

"All 'tourist road' appropriation bills or resolutions should be considered in the light of the larger scheme, if that is now ready. Is it?"

U. S. AND WAR TRADE.

By Henry Clews, Banker.

The cessation of war orders which gave such an impetus to prosperity in the United States would in any event have come ere long as a result of the growing independence of the Allies in munition manufacturing. Great Britain was already practically producing all her own munitions, and partially supplying her Allies; while only the other day a British munition firm made a bid for supplying this government with shells for one of our own dreadnoughts at figures much under American prices. The amount of this contract was not particularly important, but the difference in prices was rather significant in view of the necessity for increasing our future export trade. Less than half of the increase in our exports during the last fiscal year was due to munition orders, which in the mass constituted only about one-third of our total exports. The establishment of peace would reduce recent abnormal shipments of automobiles, horses, mules, leather, copper, etc., but these losses would be partially offset by increases in cotton, petroleum, steel products for reconstruction purposes, machinery, and the like. What the net losses would be to her export trade, therefore, it is impossible to estimate, though present disposition is to considerably overestimate them. Our most serious difficulty in maintaining our export trade will be the high cost of production in this country compared with Europe.

Speaking of opportunities in these strenuous times, dormant nations soon become doormat nations.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Not the least satisfactory thing about the 1917 Carnival is that it comes out with a credit balance instead of a deficit.

Up to the present writing, Berlin has not issued any orders allowing Hawaii one tourist boat a season.

It's beginning to look as if the old ship Booe is liable to be torpedoed in Hawaiian waters.

If this war talk keeps up, they will be mobilizing Bill Bryan.

Letters OF THE WEEK

GOOD PICTURES VS. BAD PICTURES

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: After reading a few articles in regard to the hula dances, I wish to add a few words in your valuable paper about good pictures and bad shows during the Carnival week. Many people had criticized the hula dances as being not decent, and I sympathize with those who had sent in articles in the local papers, and the article published in the editorial page of the Star-Bulletin last evening entitled, "The Degenerated Hula," was right. I have seen many tourists turn their heads aside with unhappy faces as the hula dances at different places were given. This showed that the hula dances were not carried out in a proper way. Most of the tourists and other visitors came here just for the Carnival. Did they enjoy themselves at the hula dances and the bad side-shows? No. Did they enjoy themselves in the beautiful parades and good pictures at the University Club and the Pan-Pacific pavilion? Yes. Were there any letters written to the papers praising the hula and the side-shows? No. Were there any letters written to the paper praising the good pictures or the dramas? Yes, indeed.

Now, I have said enough concerning the hula, but nothing on the side-shows during the Carnival week at Aala park and the place next to the Liberty theater. The shows given at Aala park or Joyland were most indecent; in fact, much worse than the lowest hula dances. The shows were those of "Stella Girls" under the management of E. K. Fernandez, a representative in the legislature of Hawaii. The shows next to the Liberty were just a little better than the former shows. Thousands of people visited Joyland during the Carnival, and the tent or place which drew the largest crowd was at the tent of Stella's Girls. Were they very anxious to pay their good quarters to see such shows when the women therein were half-naked? They go to the shows because they could not help but go in when the photographs which were hanging at the entrance tempted them. Most of the temptations were minors of students of local schools. When students go to such shows, don't you think they would bring into their minds dirty, unpleasant and nasty pictures? Mr. Fernandez, who brought the Stella Girls over, made a big mistake and had wronged the young people of Honolulu. I hope that in the future Carnival shows of this sort will be cut out.

In speaking of good pictures I need not say much. The paintings at the University Club from the brush of Mr. Best were splendid. The huge dioramas at the Pan-Pacific without doubt were the best seen here for many moons. Being a student, this is my letter about Carnival week in answer to the Star-Bulletin suggestions.

Yours truly,

SIN K. CHING,

A Student of Local High School.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE CARNIVALS

Honolulu, Feb. 25, 1917.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: Your invitation as published in today's issue to write the Star-Bulletin relating to suggestions as per your caption, I trust will be received in the same spirit which the writer has in submitting his suggestions, namely, that of offering such acceptable suggestions as will, when carried out, increase the attractive features and bring more tourists to the city of Honolulu for the Carnival.

First Suggestion

Change the date for holding this Mid-Pacific Carnival to May 1 of each year and limit the time to three days. Brief reasons why: Every year since 1914 the weather has been stormy, rain and wind have ruined hundreds of dollars' worth of decorations; has caused in 1915 the postponement of the opening day's event at Punahou. A heavy downpour of rain Sunday, February 13, ruined about all of the exposed decorations. The weather at May 1 is by check of weather records the ideal time for holding a carnival. Another thing, the tourists arrive in California after the close of the holidays, say January 1 to March 1, and the attractions in California hold them there by fully 99 per cent. After April 1 they seek new attractions; the beach resorts open about June 1, so between April and June will be the best time to put on this carnival and give the tourist an opportunity to visit Hawaii when other attractions in California and on the mainland have been exhausted and February is not the time to attract but a few of the thousands who visit California.

Second Suggestion

Park the attractions adjacent to waterway areas and not scatter the events as in the years past. This can be done by following the methods of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses event by the development of a Mid-

Pacific Carnival Park wherein pagodas, concessions of a higher order than in years past and all other attractive features could be held in this park within reach of course of street car and auto methods of transportation and a dozen locations could be developed.

Third Suggestion

And allow me to say that no reflection is cast upon any person in any manner or form connected with this year's event or any other year. Hire the services and pay a good salary to an experienced, capable carnival developer and director. A man who has had experience in creating and directing carnivals. Hold him responsible for the entire event from opening to closing day—for decorations and everything connected with the carnival and then let public spirited citizens come forward and get behind this carnival director and let every man and woman bury self, bury every selfish motive, create the true get-together spirit and all work hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder and make the Mid-Pacific Carnival a May festival, a world's event and then celebrate George Washington's Birthday as they do and have by a one day's honoring of the memory of the Father of His Country, but hold this carnival as a special attraction at May 1 of each year.

Respectfully submitted by a decorator who has been through the mill here for four years and who has had 30 years' experience at carnivals in mainland cities.

ED B. WEBSTER.

PUBLICITY AIDS RIFLE CLUB

Ewa Plantation, February 27, 1916. Editor, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Sir: Publicity for the needs of the Honolulu Rifle Club is doing the work we will have a real rifle club in Honolulu before July 4.

Thanking you for your support, I am Sincerely yours,

FRANK A. GOBLE.

(Mr. Gobie, for the rifle club, inserted an advertisement in the Star-Bulletin last Saturday asking some public-spirited citizen to provide a rifle range. Mr. G. P. Castle immediately came forward with an offer of a range, and plans are now under way to revive the club and put it on a permanent basis. Mr. Gobie expects to announce some of these plans next Saturday.)

A PUBLIC MARKET BUILDING ON THE LAND NOW AALA PARK

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: Why not have a public market building built at Aala park, housing the Territorial Market, fish market and wholesale and retail fruit, vegetable and food product markets, all under one roof? The fish stalls could be constructed along the river frontage. Paunah street could be extended to the market, also Hotel street, by a bridge, and the city and county of Honolulu derive a handsome income from the rentals, then turn the fish markets at Kalia street into storerooms and relieve a condition which exists here relative to furnishing more rooms for the retail trade. A building with an arcade through the center could be constructed at very reasonable cost and prove a method of tax reduction from the start.

The fish boats could land directly at the stalls along the river and Honolulu then could have a market center where produce and consumer could get together, and thus would the high cost of living be materially reduced. Why let land of that value lie idle—turn it into a money maker. Respectfully submitted,

ED. B. WEBSTER.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—D. L. CONKLING: The legislature seems to have lost sight of the plan for the redistribution of the taxes.

—JAMES A. THOMPSON, supreme court clerk: Evidences of mighty good plumbing up in the sky were apparent during the Carnival week.

—J. S. ("SUNNY JIM") McCANDLESS: Honolulu will get more hearty boosting out of that Templar delegation that just visited here than anyone can realize.

—DEPUTY SHERIFF ASCH: I like Carnivals just as well as anyone, but I'm glad it is over, with so few accidents, and the big crowds are off our hands once more. So are all the policemen, who had been doing extra duty for a week with no extra pay.

—L. W. de VILNORTON (Volcano Research Association): Have just received a most interesting report from Professor Jaggar at the Volcano. The fire lake is rapidly rising again, is only 100 feet from the top, and is giving an amazingly spectacular show.

What Carnival Feature Has Pleased You Most? Write Us The Answer

What feature of the Carnival has pleased you most? Can you offer any constructive criticism for improvement in the future? The Star-Bulletin herewith throws open its columns to communications on Carnival subjects. It is particularly desired that tourist-visitors make suggestions and comment.

Each succeeding Carnival ought to be built on the experiences of the past.

Primarily, the Carnival is for the delight, the pleasure and the benefit of tourists. Hence the whole community likes to know what has pleased the tourists most. Is it the Pan-Pacific Pageant, the Hawaiian Pageant, the Hibiscus Show, the Japanese Lantern Parade, the Dioramas, or any other single feature?

Write the Star-Bulletin and let the people of Honolulu know. Any criticism will be taken in a kindly spirit. Don't worry about that.

I will run a "personally conducted tour" on Saturday next, and will give a talk at the rim of the firepit on Sunday afternoon about the marvelous occurrences that have taken place at the Volcano since April last.

—ALEXANDER HUME FORD:

Work never wearies any man, only worry can do that, and everyone saw to it that I should not worry. We of the Pan-Pacific are therefore fresh and ready to begin our little part under the Carnival committee of 1918.

—DR. R. G. AYER: A Chinese

driver who will stay with a runaway horse like one did Saturday and risk his own life is worthy of special praise. Chong Soy was the man and his leg was broken in a successful attempt to keep his horse from running into the Carnival crowd.

PERSONALITIES

FRED O'BRIEN of the Big Island has gone to the Queen's Hospital. He arrived from Kohala Saturday morning.

ARTHUR W. RICHARDSON, manager of the lumber department in Hilo for H. Hackfeld & Co., was in Honolulu for the Carnival.

REPRESENTATIVE J. K. KULA has been called home to Kauai on account of the serious illness of his son, Robert, a Punahou student, who has been home for about a month for his health.

MRS. C. E. PEMBERTON and daughter are making a short visit in

Kona. Mr. Pemberton of the United States department of agriculture is making investigations on the Mediterranean fruit fly.

MISS SUSANNE GREGORY, niece of Capt. James Gregory of the Inter-Island steamer Kimo, has returned to her residence at the Pierpoint, Kalia road, Waikiki, after a month's visit at Union mill, Kohala, Hawaii.

MR. and MRS. DAN TRACY, prominent residents of Great Falls, Mont., were outgoing passengers on the Great Northern Sunday. They have been at the Moana for several weeks. Tracy is a hotel owner and copper man.

MISS EDNA WILES arrived on the Matsonia Tuesday to begin work as a deaconess for the First Methodist Episcopal church of Honolulu. The young woman is the first deaconess the church has had, the work having recently been enlarged to include this branch of religious activity.

MRS. L. J. JOHNSON of St. Ignace, Montana, who has been visiting in Honolulu for two months with her daughter, Mrs. McVey, wife of Rev. Charles H. McVey, pastor of the Kalili Union church, left in the Great Northern. She will visit in San Francisco, San Jose and Seattle on the way home.

The United Mine Workers' Union request for supreme court review of proceedings by Arkansas coal companies for \$1,233,000 treble damages under the Sherman law was formally presented by Senator Robinson of Arkansas.

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